

NOTICE 409 OF 2012**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA:
SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO INDIAN PRODUCT LINES OF INTEREST FOR
SACU-INDIA PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT**

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and India began a formal process of trade negotiations in 2008 that is intended to lead to a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The negotiations are being conducted in terms of the so-called enabling clause of the World Trade Organisation, i.e. a decision of 28 November 1979 on "Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries". The PTA will therefore not cover substantially all trade, like in the case of a free trade area (FTA), but be confined to products (tariff lines) of special interest to the parties.

A consultative process to compile a list of products of export interest to South African economic operators has been underway within the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) since 2008, and invitations were also extended to interested economic operators through Notice 1152 of 2008 in Government Gazette No. 31417 of 19 September 2008.

SACU and India have since exchanged their respective lists of products of export interest during the course of 2011, and a further consultative process is taking place within NEDLAC to develop a tariff line-by-line response to the India request list. Interested economic operators are therefore invited to make submissions in response to the requests in the sectors they are active in. To that end the following persons can be contacted:

- Danie Jordaan (Business Unity South Africa): 072 594 7735; djordaan@mweb.co.za
- Lambert Botha (Agriculture Trade Forum): 083 630 0254; lambert.botha@gmail.com

Submissions should also be copied to the following government contact persons:

- Helieh Konstant (Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries): 012 319 8025; HeliK@nda.agric.za
- Thembekile Mlangeni (Department of Trade and Industry): 012 394 1702; MlangeniT@thedti.gov.za

Format of responses:

8 digit level of the HS code of the South African Tariff Book	Description of the product	Applicable customs tariff	Proposed margin of preference from the following options: [100%; 50%; 25%; 10%; 0]
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A detailed list of Indian product lines of interest (or request list) as well as the relevant South African tariff book can be obtained from Thembekile Mlangeni at the dti, on 012 394 1702 or email MlangeniT@thedti.gov.za

Deadline

The deadline for submissions is 15 June 2012.